



PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 17, 2009

“VISIT A PARK”- PARADISE PARK

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive the March Public Works Parks Maintenance Operations Report featuring Paradise Park

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The purpose of “Visit a Park” reporting is as follows:

- Inform the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) about the amenities in each park in the City’s Parks System and provide updates about changes
- Report on the general condition of each park as rated by the PRC’s Parks Maintenance Standards and Rating System
- Identify maintenance challenges, and how the Park’s Division’s current work plan is addressing those challenges
- Provide the PRC an opportunity for input

PARADISE PARK

Paradise Park is a neighborhood park of 5.68 acres adjacent to Paradise Valley Elementary School. The park includes over three level acres of turf which serve as a soccer field and softball outfield as well as space for informal play. There is a large play area for 5-12 year olds with nearby benches and picnic tables. The lawn is bounded by a perimeter walkway which connects to the path that follows Edmundson Creek. The pathways also connect to a bridge that students use walking to and from school. The paths are popular with residents for jogging, walking, dog walking and bike riding. The park also has a small parking lot at the entrance on La Crosse Drive. The turf area is edged with mature willows, poplars and oaks. A small grove of Chinese Fringe trees near the play makes a show of lacy white blossoms area in the spring.

Agenda Item #

Prepared By:

Deputy Director PW

Reviewed By:

Director of PW



CHANGES IN THE PAST YEAR

- The exercise equipment had been deteriorating for years and finally reached the point at which needed to be removed. Although in poor condition, the equipment was used by residents and several complained about the removal.
- Seven trees along the pathway, chiefly poplars, had to be removed because they were dying and were a potential hazard.
- A local boy scout volunteered to make some park improvements for his Eagle Project. He and his friends added boulders, fortnight lilies and mulch to the narrow island in front of the parking lot, they painted the softball backstop and benches and spread arbor mulch along the pathway on Edmundson Creek.



PARK MAINTENANCE ISSUES

At this time of year, our chief issue is weeds. The crew is making the rounds of the parks spraying weeds. They expect to get to Paradise within the next two weeks, weather permitting. After spraying in the park fringe areas and along the pathways, the crew will mow the taller weeds next to the creek before they dry out and become a fire hazard.

The park is so heavily used for soccer throughout the year that the turf has been worn bare in places. The turf was aerated and fertilized in the fall and although we would like to do so again this spring, due to budget limitations, only spot re-seeding will be done.



PARK MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

This year the Parks Division is focusing on weed control in all parks including Paradise.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- Replace exercise equipment
- Continue tree planting to replace those that have been removed in recent years.
- Increase turf maintenance, especially aerating field areas